

**Island County Board of Health  
Special Session - Tuesday, January 22, 2013  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Commissioners Helen Price Johnson, Angie Homola and Kelly Emerson; Scott Dudley, Mayor of Oak Harbor; Anne Tarrant, Whidbey General Hospital Commissioner; Captain Edward Simmer, MC, USN, Ex-Officio Member; and, Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board.

**Members Absent:** No Members were absent.

**Call to Order:** Chair Kelly Emerson called this Special Session of the Island County Board of Health to order at 1:15 p.m.

**Additions or Changes to the Agenda:** Because this is a Special Session of the Board of Health only those items on the announced agenda may be acted upon at this session.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Chair called for the approval of the minutes of the December 17, 2012 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Emerson asked to delete the sentence that read: "She hoped that the issues Commissioner Emerson has abstained from voting on this year will not cause her a problem while serving as Chair." Mayor Dudley moved to approve the minutes with the deletion of the referenced sentence and Commissioner Price Johnson seconded. Commissioner Johnson and Member Anne Tarrant abstained as they were not in attendance at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The motion passed unanimously with those voting.

**Public Input or Comments:** The Chair invited members of the public who wished to provide input or make comments to indicate their wish to do so. Because this is a Special Session of the Board of Health, only those items on the announced agenda may be acted upon by the Board.

**Presentation: Local Boards of Health and the Public Health System**

Keith Higman, Health Services Director, addressed the Board with a public health tutorial. He covered the definition of public health, the history, the public health system and Board of Health authority.

**Contracts:** Keith Higman presented two contracts to the Board for their consideration.

1. Department of Health – Consolidated Contract  
Contract No. C16886, Amendment No. 6  
Contract Amount:       \$ 1,488,714  
Amendment Amount:   \$ 552,546
2. Edquist, Davis Exhibits, Inc. – Freeland Park Educational Exhibit  
Contract No. HD-02-2013  
Contract Amount:       \$ 14,995

Commissioner Price Johnson moved that the contracts be approved as presented. Member Anne Tarrant seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Legislative Updates:** Keith Higman told the Board that the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO), an affiliated organization with the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC), has adopted its 2013 legislative agenda. They will focus on supporting a funding strategy focused on the maintenance of current State funding for foundational public health services, pursue legislation that clarifies and provides consistency to the dispensing of pharmaceuticals by local health nurses, and pursue legislation allowing health districts to operate as their own fiscal agent with appropriate governing consents.

Commissioner Emerson commented that there is new aerobic septic system technology available that is not yet approved in Washington State. She is interested to see what is happening on a review of this system. Both Keith Higman and Commissioner Johnson asked for more specific information, such as the name of the manufacturer, so they could look into the technology. Keith pointed out that the on-site rule approving new technology is through the State Department of Health and private lab tests. Commissioner Price Johnson hoped Island County might be considered as a test area.

**Report from the Health Department:** Governor Inslee has appointed 5 new department heads. He has asked the Secretary of Health to stay on through the transition but she does not know beyond that. The 2013 date for the Linda Lee Martens Community Health Hero Awards will be May 14 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Coupeville Performing Arts Center. All of the Board of Health Members reported being able to attend on this date for what is a joint Board of Health and Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB) meeting.

**Strategic Planning:** The Board of Health Members want to pursue doing strategic planning and setting priorities. Keith suggests that they have several options:

1. Outside facilitator;
2. Staff facilitated conversation – but that could potentially limit the conversation;
3. Self facilitated by the Chair or a delegate; or,
4. Some combination of staff and self facilitated with an outside guest. John Austin, Chair of the State Board of Health, might lend an afternoon to this Board.

Commissioner Johnson commented that giving direction and taking direction are difficult so Option 2 would not be her choice. Mayor Dudley would combine options 1 and 3 into an option 5. Commissioner Price Johnson supports the new option 5.

Keith asked the Board if their objective is a work plan, setting priorities, or setting legislative priorities? Commissioner Price Johnson suggested that strategic planning would help the Board decide on directions for discretionary funding and support for CHAB recommendations. A holistic look. Member Tarrant commented that there has been no planning, only reaction, since she has been on the Board. Commissioner Price Johnson asked about timing and suggested that the Board could possibly extend the time of the regular meeting to a special session following for strategic planning. Keith will research various options for the Board to consider and include cost and timing options for the February meeting.

**Board Comments/Announcements:**

Captain Simmer asked about how this Board receives community input. David Macys, CHAB Member, was in attendance and commented that the CHAB was created to provide the Board of Health with community feedback. The CHAB is a conduit into the public and offers another perspective. He suggested that the CHAB can sponsor public forums to address selected issues and would be happy to do that.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business before the Board, Chair Emerson adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Health will be a Special Session held on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 1:15 p.m. in the Commissioner's Hearing Room (B102) in the Court House Annex Building.

Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roger S. Case, MD  
Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2013  
ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Kelly Emerson, Board Chair